The Tortoise's Gift

In Zambia the rain stopped falling and the animals were thirsty and hungry. There was an old tree but no one knew the tree's name. They decided to ask the mountain.

First the lion stepped forward because he was the bravest.

Can you tell me the name of the wonderful tree?

AWONGALEMA the mountain rumbled.

The lion was pleased. What a famous hero he would be! He stopped for a nice big **ROAR** but he roared the name right out of his head!

Next the elephant stepped forward because he was the biggest.

Can you tell me the name of the wonderful tree?

AWONGALEMA the mountain rumbled.

The elephant was pleased. What a famous hero he would be! He stopped for a nice long **SCRATCH** but he scratched the name right out of his head!

After that the chimps jumped up because they were the cleverest.

Can you tell us the name of the wonderful tree?

AWONGALEMA the mountain rumbled.

The chimps were pleased. What famous heroes they would be! They stopped and had **FUN** but they tickled the name right out of their heads.

Lastly the tortoise stepped forward but the animals were worried that he was too small and too slow.

Can you tell me the name of the wonderful tree?

AWONGALEMA the mountain rumbled.

The tortoise chanted A-WON-GA-LE-MA as he stepped. The tortoise did not feel pleased. He didn't hope he would be a famous hero. He didn't stop to ROAR or SCRATCH or have FUN. He just chanted A-WON-GA-LE-MA

The tree shivered. Its branches creaked, its leaves grew wide and in the centre grew all the animal's favourite fruits - bananas, grapes, mangoes and pineapples!

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